

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Carroll et al.

SERIAL No. Unassigned

EXAMINER: Unassigned

FILED: Herewith

GROUP NO.: Unassigned

TITLE: METHOD OF PERFORMING TRANSACTIONS IN AN  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NETWORK

Attorney Docket No.: 30005893 US

Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
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Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on  
August 17, 2001 (Date of Deposit)

Allison Berkman  
Name

Allison Berkman  
Signature

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as set forth below.

**In The Specification**

On page 1, at line 3, insert -- Background of the Invention--

-- 1. Field of the Invention --.

On page 1, at line 9, insert -- 2. Discussion of the Background Art --.

On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 17 as follows:

The advent of large scale networks, such as the internet, in which many different and distinct commercial undertakings own one or more of the computing entities that comprise the network has enabled the conduct of commercial transactions across such a network. A transaction is, in effect, any interaction across a network which involves more than a single party (regardless of whether the or each party to a transaction is a program - automated or otherwise, or a legal or natural person), and examples of

transactions include enquiries as to the availability of one or more products and/or services, negotiating on the nature or price of products and/or services it is now possible to enquire on the availability of a particular type of holiday, and negotiation and conclusion of a contract for the purchase of such a holiday. Frequently however it is contended that at present the performance of such networks prevents the conduct of such transactions.

#### Summary of The Invention

The present invention provides a protocol for transactions across an information technology network which increases the versatility of a given network without any modification of the network infrastructure (i.e. the telecommunications links, processing, and storage elements of the network).

On page 3, at line 27, please insert --Brief Description of the Drawings--.

On page 4, at line 4, please insert --Detailed Description of the Invention--.

**Remarks**

Claims 1-48 remain in the application.

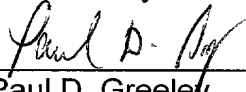
The specification has been amended to include headings consistent with US practice.

Consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

8-17-01  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

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